

**CRASC Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2000
Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center
Turners Falls, Massachusetts**

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on October 5, 2000

Chair Jay McMenemy called the meeting to order at about 10:20 a.m.

Mr. Steve Gephard motioned to approve the Minutes from the October 5, 2000 meeting. Mr. Steve Roy seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved.

2. Research Forum Update

Ms. Janice Rowan reported that a slate of speakers had been selected for the Research Forum scheduled for January 25, 2001. The speakers were confirmed in writing. An agenda is set. A mailing for sign-ups will be completed by the end of this month.

3. Other Business

Ms. Rowan informed the Technical Committee that Mr. Bruce Jenson would be retiring from the White River National Fish Hatchery on January 1, 2001.

Data summaries on stocking, returns and egg production were provided: 9.3 million salmon were stocked in 2000 including 48,000 smolts; 77 adult salmon returned to the river; and, 13.2 million eggs were produced.

Mr. Steve Roy agreed to provide about \$4,000 toward a seasonal hire at the White River NFH, predicated on a match from the USFWS Connecticut River/Long Island Sound Ecosystem Team.

Mr. Bruce Williams has again expressed interest on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to become a member of the Commission or the Technical Committee.

The City of Holyoke has offered to buy Holyoke Water Power, discussions are ongoing.

The State of Connecticut's Office of Secretary of the State requires State funded agencies to file regularly scheduled public meeting dates one year in advance. The Commission may be exempt from this requirement because of its Federal status. Mr. Rick Jacobson agreed to investigate this further and report back before the filing deadline.

4. CRASC Congressional Briefing Discussion

Congressional Briefing Update

Ms. Rowan updated the Technical Committee on CRASC meeting feedback from Mr. Bob Paquin. The Congressional briefing is likely to be scheduled sometime between January 10-16. It will be held in the Ag. Conference room which is a relatively informal setting with a large conference table. Approximately half of the 30 basin's legislators or their aides are likely to attend.

The USFWS is working internally with Washington staff to include a line item in the President's 2002 budget. Mr. Mike Vito indicated that Senator Kerry is taking similar steps to include a Senate request.

At the last CRASC meeting, Mr. Wayne MacCallum offered to make this an issue at the International meeting in which case State Directors at the International might encourage the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the USFWS to include funding for the Program in the president's budget. State Directors might also contact legislators and Appropriation Subcommittee Chairs to encourage an add for the Program. Non-government organizations might make similar requests.

Funding Needs

Funding needs were discussed and a format for presenting the needs was developed.

- The USFWS identified a need for an additional ~\$3.5 million in salaries, operations and maintenance. An additional need of ~\$16-30 million was identified for construction projects, half of which will cover an expected Clean Water Act effluent treatment mandate. These figures provoked considerable discussion especially with respect to the construction request. It was agreed that the priority was to make the USFWS operationally whole again and there was concern that the construction request would derail the overall likelihood of funding. Consequently, it was agreed that the 2002 request would address the State needs and subsequent requests would address USFWS construction needs phased over 9 years. The USFWS agreed to provide a priority list for construction for the CRASC meeting. And, the Coordinator agreed to request feedback on the feasibility of this approach from Mr. Paquin prior to the CRASC meeting.
- The CTDEP identified a need for an additional ~\$570,000 in annual operations and ~\$1.75 million in construction.
- The MAFW identified a need for an additional ~\$450,000 in construction. Mr. Warner agreed to follow-up with Mr. Caleb Slater after the meeting to make sure the State had considered funding fishway monitors through this process.
- The NHFG identified a need for an additional ~\$110,000 in annual operations and ~\$2 million in construction.

- The VTFW identified a need for an additional ~\$110,000 in annual operations and ~\$8,000 in construction.
- The USFS identified a need for an additional ~\$200,000 in annual operations.
- The USGS-BRD identified a need for an additional ~\$710,000 in annual operations and ~\$125,000 in construction.

The combined State/Federal annual need is roughly \$5.2 million. Additional construction needs amount to about \$4 million per year with the first allocation reserved for the States and the remainder for the USFWS. The agencies planned to finalize their identified needs prior to the CRASC meeting.

Mr. Duncan McInnes agreed to follow-up with the NMFS Commissioner to make sure that NMFS did not want to identify needs since there was no representative for NMFS in attendance.

Briefing Presentation

Briefing Format

- I. Introductory Remarks (2 minutes) - Salmon restoration is a keystone project in the watershed linking all other activities and organizations...
- II. Program History (4 minutes) - Legislative mandate, program accomplishments/program benefits
- III. Funding Needs (10 minutes total)
 - A. USFWS (5 minutes)
 - B. State/NGO (5 minutes)
- IV. NGO Testimonials (12 minutes total)
 - A. Northeast Utilities (2 minutes) - Bob Stira
 - B. Connecticut River Watershed Council (2 minutes) - Tom Miner or Tom Maloney
 - C. USGS-BRD (2 minutes) - Steve Rideout
 - D. Trout Unlimited (2 minutes) - Charlie Olchoswski
 - E. Leveret Elementary School (2 minutes) - Joan Godsey
 - F. Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (2 minutes) - John O'Leary
- V. Big Picture Summary of CT River Benefits (2 minutes)

Briefing Content - Power Point Slide Show

1. Cover Page
2. List of Partners
3. CRASC History
4. CT River Accomplishments
5. USFWS Spending by State - 1 pie chart
6. USFWS Spending per Station by State - 4 pie charts
7. CRASC Spending by Partners - 1 pie chart
8. CTDEP State Benefits & Needs
9. MAFW State Benefits & Needs

10. NHFG State benefits & Needs
11. VTFW State Benefits & Needs
12. Summary Table of State & Federal Funding Needs
13. Expected Resource Outcomes

There was some discussion about presenting the briefing - advantages of fewer speakers, State speakers, etc. It was agreed that the most important factor is to select a speaker or speakers who feel comfortable with the material and who are excellent public speakers though other factors like political strategy may also be important. It was noted that Dr. Jaime Geiger would not attend the briefing in January. The Technical Committee agreed that this made it imperative that Dr. Mamie Parker attend the briefing. Mr. McInnes agreed to speak to the Commissioners prior to the meeting next week to discuss speaker selection.

Hand-out Materials

1. *Strategic Plan for the Restoration of Atlantic Salmon to the Connecticut River*
2. CRASC brochure
3. Hard copy of Power Point slide presentation
4. CRASC funding needs summary in the following format:

State	Station	Function	Deficiency/Need	Recommended Response	Funding

5. Fact Sheets in the following format in Times New Roman - 12 point:

CONNECTICUT RIVER ATLANTIC SALMON COMMISSION (CRASC)

Funding Recommendation - January 2001

Agency/Organization

Briefing Paper

Responsible Agency/Organization -

Contact Person - Name, Title, Office, Phone, E-mail

Field Stations -

Personnel - [#]

Role and Summary of Involvement in the Restoration Program

Accomplishments & Benefits

Funding Needs:

Title

2 Sentence Justification

Funding Needed:

Funding Period:

Proposed List of Participants

Federal - not more than 15 persons

USFWS R5 Regional Director - if named by then

USFWS R5 Deputy Regional Director - Dr. Mamie Parker

USFWS R5 Senior Biologist - Ron Howey

USFWS R5 Connecticut River Coordinator - Janice Rowan

USFWS WO Assistant Director-Fisheries - Cathy Short

USFWS WO Deputy AD-Fisheries - Bill Knapp

USFWS WO Chief, FWMA - Hannibal Bolton

USFWS Legislative Services - Jeff Hobbs

USFS - Green Mountain National Forest - Steve Roy

USFS - WO - ?

USGS-BRD - Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center - Steve Rideout

USGS Legislative Services

NMFS - Chris Mantzaris?

CRASC - Non-Federal

CTDEP - Ed Parker

CTDEP - Steve Gephard

CTDEP - Rick Jacobson

CT Public - Bob Jones

MAFW - Wayne MacCallum

MA Public - Tom Menard

NHFG - Wayne Vetter

NHFG - Duncan McInnes

NH Public - Charlie Thoits

VTFW - Ron Regan

VTFW - Angie Incerpi

VT Public - Peter Basta

Non-Government Organizations & Other Agencies

Northeast Utilities - Bob Stira

Connecticut River watershed Council - Tom Miner or Tom Maloney

Trout Unlimited - Charlie Olchowski

Leverett Elementary School - Joan Godsey

MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs - John O'Leary

CT River Joint Commissions - Sharon Francis

The question of financial assistance to suggested participants for travel was not resolved.

5. Selection of Next Technical Committee Meeting Date

The Technical Committee did not select a future date beyond the Research Forum in January.

Ms. Rowan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Roy seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Technical Committee Meeting Attendance

Janice Rowan	USFWS
Jay McMenemy	VTFW
Steve Gephard	CTDEP
Rick Jacobson	CTDEP
Darleen Cutting	USFWS
Caleb Slater	MAFW
Ben Letcher	USGS/BRD
John Warner	USFWS
Alex Haro	USGS/BRD
Bob Stira	Northeast Utilities Service Company
Phil Herzig	USFWS
Ben Rizzo	USFWS
Curt Orvis	USFWS
Steve Roy	USFS
Bruce Williams	USACE
Steve McCormick	USGS/BRD
John Krauss	Northeast Utilities Service Company
James Simino	Normandeau Associates
Ron Heun	Normandeau Associates
Mike Parker	MAEOEA
Tom Maloney	CRWC
Ron Howey	USFWS
Duncan McInnes	NHFG
Steve Rideout	USGS
Charlie Thoits	NH Public Representative